THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The bidders interested in acquiring equity stake in Air India have completed the due diligence exercise and study of Data Room Documents.

(c) The initial draft Agreements were given to the prospective bidders only for eliciting their comments/reactions. However, the terms of the Agreements are determined in accordance with the Government's policy , priorities, national interest and security concerns.

Handing over of group handling services to private players

167. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has recently been taken to band over the ground handling services at international airports to new foreign players including a Dubai-based company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the trade unions have presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister vehemently opposing this decision on the ground that it is purely based on commercial considerations ignoring national security interests; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to stay its implementation and allot the work to Air India which is already offering the ground handling services to 46 foreign airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Subsequent to the notification of the new Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000, Airports Authority of India have initiated the process of selection of companies for providing ground handling services in a competitive and efficient manner at international airports. According to policy on Airport Infrastructure and the terms of Tender, companies having upto 74% foreign equity are eligible.

(b) and (c) One trade Union which is not recognised by the

Airports Authority of India as a Trade union under its wing *viz* Hind Mazdoor Sabha submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister in the matter. The parties shall have to abide by all the safety and security regulations and to obtain necessary clearance from the concerned departments. The contracts for ground handling services at airports will be finalized and awarded to the selected parties only after obtaining due clearances.

Contract for ground handling operations

168. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground handling operations contracts in International Airports, processed and approved earlier, are facing teething troubles;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not finalizing and awarding contract;

(c) the details of private players shortlisted earlier indicating their accreditations, past experience, nationality, etc. and whether they had fulfilled all the initial conditionalities, requirements and clearances laid down for contracts by his Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the terms of contracts and when the same are likely to be finalized and finally awarded?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Subsequent to the notification of the new Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000, Airports Authority of India have initiated the process of selection of companies for providing ground handling services in a competitive and efficient manner at international airpor ;. The contract for ground handling services at airports will be finalized keeping in view all the requirements/